New Adelaide list boss Jarryd Roughead says he believes the Crows are in a similar position to former club Hawthorn in that they are looking for a "couple of extra pieces" to get them contending for a premiership.

The four-time flag winning Hawks great was appointed as the Crows list boss last month, replacing Justin Reid after he was poached by the AFL.

Roughead comes to the Crows after being player acquisition manager for the Hawks, as well as a wide-ranging off-field role at St Kilda.

In an exclusive interview with Code Sports, Roughead said the Crows' list only needed an extra player or two.

"Full credit to 'Reidy' and Hamish (Ogilvie), from Reidy's point of view I think he has left the club in a great spot where the list sits," he said.

"Minor premiers last year, I think now it is very similar to what Hawthorn is trying to do in that they just need a couple of extra pieces to get them there on that final Saturday in September.

"You are always looking to improve your list and I think the Crows have been very good in the draft in recent years I think now you are searching for some real match winners that can hopefully put you over the top."

The Hawks brought in key defenders Tom Barrass and Josh Battle ahead of the 2025 season and tried to lure former Essendon captain Zach Merrett in last year's trade period as they look for an A-Grade midfielder.

The Crows snared Brisbane's dual-premiership winner Callum Ah Chee at the end of last year and have also been public in their desire to land an A-Grade midfielder.

They are hoping to lure star free agent Zac Bailey out of Brisbane with a huge offer.

Meanwhile, South Australian local and Hawthorn star midfielder Will Day's current contract expires at the end of next year.

When asked about those two potential targets, Roughead said he would be a list manager that didn't speak about players from other clubs in the media.

"I've come from two clubs that respectfully try not to talk about the opposition too much," he said.

"They're doing their thing, you want to make sure that in this role you are doing things the correct way with process.

“So yeah I don’t think you’ll hear me talking about too many players from opposition clubs.”

The strength of the Crows midfield has been a big talking point around Matthew Nicks’ side already this season, and the senior coach himself lamented their first-quarter smashing in clearances by Fremantle in their Good Friday loss on Friday night.

Roughead said the Crows midfield had been “in it” at times during games this year but it could be improved.

“I’ve only been in it (the role) three weeks so it is not as if I can come in and automatically think I do know what to do straight away,” he said.

“It is going to take time to understand how the Crows operate, get to know a lot of people in the building but also the players.

“I think if every team had the chance to improve their list, whether it be midfield, forward or defence you take the opportunity.

“This season has probably shown that we’re in it at certain points in games, but we’d like to hopefully add a few more pieces that can win us some games too.”

While the Crows have been public that they are on the hunt for an A-Grader, there is also belief that young guns Dan Curtin and Sid Draper can become top-line midfielders.

Curtin is targeting a return in Round 8, when the Crows take on Port Adelaide in a Friday night Showdown, after the former No. 8 draft picks’ dislocated kneecap in a wrestling drill in pre-season.

There’s lots of belief in young talent like Daniel Curtin

Draper, a former No. 4 pick, has started the season in the SANFL as the Crows build up his body after a stop-start pre-season.

He had 19 disposals and six clearances in the loss to Woodville-West Torrens on Thursday.

Roughead said the Crows needed to be patient with the young talent.

“When you draft these guys with early picks you have high hopes for them, but they take time,” he said.

“Guys can take three or four years until they really hit their straps in the system.

“And it is not just those two, there’s a number of boys that are probably midfielders that we haven’t got to see yet due to the Crows being quite healthy and fit (in recent years).

“And this is probably the first time that we’re seeing the depth tested for a couple of years with how many injuries we’ve had to start the season.”

The ruck position has also been a big talking point around the Crows so far this season.

The new ruck rules have resulted in Lachlan McAndrew unseating leadership group member Reilly O’Brien as the Crows No. 1 option and after the club re-signed O’Brien for three more years with no knowledge of the incoming changes.

Lachlan McAndrew is the new number one ruck at the Crows.

Against Fremantle the Crows went with both rucks against the Dockers’ duo of Luke Jackson and Sean Darcy.

On Saturday Crows footy boss Adam Kelly told Grandstand SA the work of McAndrew and O’Brien was a “positive”.

Roughead said he was happy with the ruck depth on the list.

“I think with the rule changes, you’ve got to give a bit of time to work out how the comp sits,” he said.

“We are four games into a season with rule changes that came in just before Christmas.

“We’ve got a small sample size and Lachie has started the season off very well but in saying that it is not just one ruckman.

“We have the depth with what is there on the list, there was two on Friday night, I dare say there will be changes throughout the year depending on match-ups and what not.”

After his 283-game career for the Hawks – in which he also claimed a Coleman Medal, was a two-time All-Australian and captain of the club in addition to his four flags – ended Roughead quickly gravitated to recruitment and list management.

“Since my playing days list management has been an area that I’ve always been interested in due to interest in American sports and how they do a lot of things over there with free agency, trades, contracts and what not,” he said.

“And then when Adelaide reached out it is something you kind of jump at, there are only 19 of these jobs in Australia.”